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July 2018

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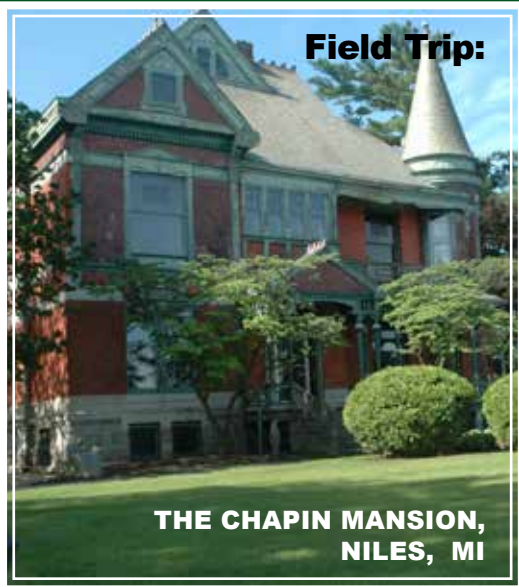
A regional newspaper freely distributed in Dowagiac, Cassopolis, Edwardsburg, Vandalia, Jones, Marcellus, Decatur, Union, Sister Lakes, Three Rivers, Elkhart and Mishawaka, with home delivery at Diamond, Eagle, Birch, Corey, Donnell, Indian, Magician, Shavehead, Baldwin, Long, Dewey, Cable, Juno, Christiana, Painter, Paradise, Stone, Buck, Lewis, Big & Little Twin and Bair lakes



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Neighbors is published monthly from March through December.

To contact Neighbors
(269) 228-1080
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<http://www.cassneighbors.com>
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REGIONAL NEWS

Blues, Brews & BBQ

On Saturday, August 25, from 5-9 pm, the Cass County COA will host a Blues, Brews, & BBQ. This themed fundraiser supporting Meals on Wheels features local music by Out of Favor Boys, Beer Flights sponsored by Sister Lakes Brewing, Wine Flights sponsored by Fenn Valley Winery, and BBQ!

Tickets are \$50 per person or \$400 for a table of eight. The event will have a live & silent auction, dancing, dinner, drinks, & fun for all! Sponsorship opportunities for this wonderful evening are also available. For information about supporting this event, either by donating auction items, sponsoring meals for Meals on Wheels program, or attending, contact Heidi Powell at 445-8110 or email heidip@casscoa.org.

Beckwith to hold auditions for the comedy "The Sisters Rosensweig"

Auditions to round out the cast of the comedy *The Sisters Rosensweig* by Wendy Wasserstein will be held on Wednesday, July 18 at 7 pm & Saturday, July 21 at 2 pm. Rehearsals will run August 6-September 13.

Performance dates are September 14, 15, 16 & 21, 22, 23.

Auditions, rehearsals and performances will take place at the Beckwith Theatre, 100 New York Ave, Dowagiac, MI 49047.

Roles available include: Sara Goode (female, mid 40s to mid 50s); Geoffrey Duncan (male, mid 30s to late 40s, British; role requires some singing); Mervyn Kant (male, early 40s to mid 50s); Nicholas Pym (male, early 40s to mid 50s, British); Remaining roles have been filled by actors from last year's staged reading of the show.

For more information or to schedule an alternate audition time, please contact director Rich Frantz at visitingauthor@comcast.net.

Antique engine & tractor show

SOUTH HAVEN - Michigan Flywheelers is planning an Antique Engine & Tractor Show: Thursday, Sept. 6 - Sunday, Sept. 9.

For more information visit their web site at <http://www.michiganflywheelers.org> or see them on Facebook.

Cass Fellowship Bible Church

Cass Fellowship Bible Church 64106 M-62 Cassopolis, has scheduled the following events:

Wednesday July 18 @ 6 pm Sheriff Dept presentation about active shooter.

Friday July 27 @ 6:30 pm Movie "Woodland" with Franklin Graham

Underground Railroad Days set for July 13-15

The Village of Vandalia and The Underground Railroad Society of Cass County, MI (URSCC) will partner for the 9th Annual Underground Railroad Days the second weekend in July.

Friday, July 13, at 7 pm "Opening Night" at Ross Beatty High School in Cassopolis will feature local filmmaker Sally Jo Connor's documentary about the infamous 1847 Kentucky Slave Raid that made its debut at last year's festival.

Saturday and Sunday, July 14 and 15, from 11 am to 5 pm in Vandalia will feature guided tours of Kentucky Raid sites, Underground Railroad (UGRR) related presentations and displays, Civil War 102nd Colored Troops Living History Encampment, and period music and crafts in Milo Barnes Park. A soul food dinner (\$10) will be served all day in the Vandalia Village Hall. Family events and craft booths will be situated on the Vandalia Village Green.

The Bonine House, Victorian home of UGRR stationmasters James E. and Sarah Bogue Bonine, will be open for tours, as will their Carriage House across the street where fugitive slaves (called freedom seekers) were sheltered.

URSCC plans to open the Bogue House during Underground Railroad Days, July 14 and 15. Visitors can go into the attic where freedom seekers were hidden, and learn how the house figured in the 1847 Kentucky Slave Raid. The house will remain open through September, along with the James E. Bonine House and the Bonine Carriage House, just down the street. Bogue's daughter, Sarah, married



James E. Bonine in 1844 and they too were stationmasters on the UGRR.

The Bogue House was the home of the most famous Underground Railroad (UGRR) stationmaster in Cass County, Quaker Stephen Bogue. He arrived here in 1830 and started Friends Anti-Slavery Society in 1843. His home at Crooked Creek and M-60 in Cassopolis sheltered many fugitive slaves, now called freedom seekers, on their journey to safety in Canada. The Underground Railroad Society of Cass County (URSCC) is pleased to announce that the Stephen and Hannah Bogue home has been donated to the organization by the Pleasant View Church of Christ, on whose property it sets.

Pleasant View Pastor Jeff Oliver said "It's our pleasure to donate the Bogue house to URSCC. The Pleasant View Church of Christ first purchased the house and property from Sidney and Leta Ritter on September 6th, 1969 so the church could relocate from Vandalia where the congregation was first established in 1839. They would build their

first building as the Vandalia Church of Christ in 1854. That original structure still stands. The congregation erected and dedicated its current building in November, 1972, and changed its name to Pleasant View Church of Christ. The Bogue house has been used as a parsonage from that time until now. The Church no longer needs the parsonage and is excited and proud to donate it to URSCC to be restored to an 1830's historic home to carry on the story of the Underground Railroad in Cass County."

Stephen Bogue became a prominent citizen, very well regarded by the community. He donated land and platted the Village of Vandalia in 1851. His descendants still live nearby and are pleased to see their ancestor honored in this way.

More about the Underground Railroad in Cass County, URSCC, and a complete schedule of events can be found on the URSCC website www.urscc.org. Admission, parking and all events are free, donations are appreciated.

Saturday August 4 Annual Pancake & Sausage breakfast 9 - 11 am (Free will donation!)

August 16 & 17 Annual yard sale 9 am - 3 pm

Movies at 6:30 pm (movies to be announced) on Aug. 24, Sept 28, Oct 26

For more information contact Pastor Richard Doran at 269-274-5726.

Edwardsburg museum programs

The Edwardsburg Area Historical Museum's 2018 season continues on Thur., July 19 with a presentation by Stephanie Ballew of Edwardsburg on Native American authors. Ballew is a member of the Penobscot Tribe of Maine. She is a native of the Boston, Mass., area, and has lived in Edwardsburg since 1994. Her late husband, Christopher, was a member of the Pokagon Band, for which

she worked for 18 years as the Behavioral Health Director.

The next exhibit, "How Far We Have Come," will open on Thurs., Aug. 16, and will feature items from the museum's permanent collections.

Also on Aug. 16, Folk Singer Barbara Barton, a 1976 Edwardsburg High School graduate, will perform some of her own songs at the museum. Barton is a Detroit Music Awards Best Vocalist in Folk Music and Metro Area Artists and Songwriters Association Songwriter of the Year Resident Artist at Isle Royale National Park.

The museum will hold an open house at 3:30 pm on Sunday, Aug. 19. During that event, Barton, will sign copies of her books. An environmental biologist, Barton is a resource analyst with the Michigan Department of Transportation.

Colin Knapp of Edwardsburg also will sign copies of at least one of his books. Born in Grand Rapids, Knapp's family moved to Edwardsburg when he was three. He graduated from Edwardsburg High School in 1995, and earned a degree in English from the United States Naval Academy. In 2014, he published an ebook, *Sweetwater Dreams: A Mystery Thriller*. Two ebooks of poetry were published in 2013 and 2015. His most recent book is *Shady Trails in a Light Fog*, which he printed in 2017.

Edwardsburg School Superintendent Sherman Ostrander, who is retiring at the end of the school year, will be the speaker on Thurs., Sept. 20. His topic will be "Leading the Schools for 23 years." Prior to his position as superintendent, Ostrander served as the assis-

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REGIONAL NEWS

tant high school principal, middle school principal, high school principal, and assistant superintendent, all at Edwardsburg.

The season's presentations will conclude Thurs., Oct. 18, when Edwardsburg Resident Edward Patzer discusses growing up in Edwardsburg, and the progress made on the development of the Not-For-Profit Edwardsburg Sports Complex. Patzer founded the sports complex in 2005 and serves as its president.

All events begin at 7 pm. There is no admission charge but donations are welcome. The season's final exhibit will open on Nov. 7 with a new 10-foot high Christmas tree. The season will close on Dec. 15.

Rummage & bake sale

A rummage and bake sale will be held at First United Methodist Church, 326 N Lowe St. in Dowagiac on Friday, July 20 from 9 am to 3 pm and Saturday, July 21, from 9 am to 2 pm.

The event will feature a \$4 bag sale – all day Saturday, a bake sale with homemade and some gluten free items, and a rummage sale, with new items added, furniture, glassware, dishes (china), kitchen utensils, pots and pans, linens, books, CDs, DVDs, VCR tapes (movies), old country music album, and much more.

For questions, please call Darlene at 269-782.8551.

Friday Night Firefly Lights

Join a park interpreter at the Bendix Woods Nature Center located at Bendix Woods County Park on Friday, June 29 at 9 pm. Participants will learn how to

identify lightening bugs and what characteristics make lightening bugs "light up the evening skies." After the indoor program, participants will go outside to observe lightening bugs. Dress for the weather. Bring lawn chairs and insect spray.

Pre-registration is required by Thursday June 27. Program fee \$3/person. For more information or to register call 574/654-3155.

Learn to Play Disc Golf FREE!

FREE Beginners' Disc Golf Lessons will be offered on Saturday, July 14 at 10 am and Sunday, August 12 at 1 pm at Ferrettie/Baugo Creek County Park. Discs will be provided for use at the lesson. The lesson is open to anyone and is designed for those who are just curious about disc golf and also beginners who want tips to improve their game.

Ferrettie/Baugo Creek County Park has an 18-hole disc golf course with concrete tee pads. Disc golf is great for all ages and abilities, and a great way to get the family outside to have some summer fun. The course is open every day 10 am until park closing. Daily disc golf passes are \$4 for adults and \$3 for youth 15 and under. Disc are available for rent for \$2 each. There is a gate entrance fee charged on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays and Holidays, of \$4/St. Joseph County vehicle and \$5/out-of-county vehicle. The gate entrance fee will be waived for anyone attending a lesson.

Ferrettie/Baugo Creek County Park is located at 57057 Ash Road, Osceola, Indiana. For more information, call (574) 674-9765 or visit www.sjcparks.org.

Niles fireworks scheduled

The Niles Fourth of July Fireworks Spectacular will take place at approximately 9:40 pm Tuesday, July 3, at the Apple Festival Grounds, 1740 Lake St. The gates will open to the public at 6 pm. The event is free and open to the public, though a \$5 donation for parking is encouraged. The first 1,000 vehicles that enter will receive a small American flag. Glow in the dark bracelets and necklaces will be sold at the gates for \$1 each.

Artwork works on display

MICHIGAN CITY, IN - From now through Saturday, October 13 Lubeznik Center for the Arts (LCA) will exhibit original works by Andy Warhol, on loan from the Drew and Wendy Levenfeld collection, as well as from the Brauer Museum of the Art's permanent collection at Valparaiso University, Indiana. The exhibition will be titled Warhol: Icon & Influence and is generously sponsored by NIPSCO.

Andy Warhol (1928-1987) is widely recognized as one of the most important artists of the twentieth century. Over 50 original works will be on display including a substantial collection of black and white photographs, Polaroids, and large color screen prints that include the famous Campbell Soup Can and other iconic images like Moon Walk and Annie Oakley. The works on display will span from the late 60's through the late 80's of Warhol's career. Warhol frequently used the Polaroid portraits he made for making his well-known large scale screen prints.

On Saturday, July 14 from 10:30 to 11:30 am guests can enjoy a curator-led

tour with Lora Fosberg, Director of Exhibitions. Learn about the artwork and artists' intentions during this interactive tour. Admission is free of charge.

In addition to NIPSCO's sponsorship, this exhibition has received generous support from Blue Chip Casino Hotel Spa, ICON Fine Art Services, WIMS & WHFB Radio and WNIT Public Television.

Also, on August 18 and 19 from 10 am to 5 pm guests can come to Lubeznik Center for the Arts (LCA) for Northwest Indiana's premiere art festival: Lubeznik Arts Festival (LAF). There will be over 100 national artist and community booths for the public to enjoy as well as a delicious array of food for all tastes and an art scavenger hunt for families.

Single day admission is \$5. Free admission for LCA members, children ages 16 & under and active military personnel with ID. Free off-site parking and shuttle service is available and encouraged.

For more information visit www.lubeznikcenter.org or call 219.874.4900.

Cass County Fair June 29-Aug 4

The Cass County Fair at the Cassopolis Fairgrounds, 590 N. O'Keefe St. will feature grandstand entertainment for all ages including rodeos, demolition derbies, super-stock tractor & truck pulls, motorcross and monster trucks. FREE must-see events include fireworks and daily entertainment throughout the grounds as well as hundreds of 4-H and Open Class exhibits. Open Monday through Saturday, 11 am to 11 pm. For more information call 445-8265 or visit www.mycasscountyfair.com

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REGIONAL NEWS

SELECTED FAIR EVENTS

Friday, July 27

6 pm Youth Dog Agility, Cloverbud/Pee Wee, Costume - SA
5:30 pm Youth Light Horse Driving Classes - DHR

Saturday, July 28

8 am Entry of Open Class Home Arts & Fine Arts Exhibits - EC
9 am Registration & Judging of All Youth Projects & Entry of Non-Livestock Exhibits

Noon Open Class Exhibits must be in place - EC

Noon Youth Dog Showmanship & Obedience - SA

7 pm 23rd Annual Fair "KING & QUEEN" Contest - GS

7 pm 14th Annual Fair "PRINCE & PRINCESS" Contest - GS

Sunday, July 29 - FREE GATE ADMISSION

7 am Livestock may enter the fairgrounds

Noon Entry of Open Class Floriculture & Horticulture - EC

Noon Draft Horse Pulls - GS

2:30 pm Youth Still Exhibit Auction - CB

2 pm Youth Livestock Exhibits must be in place

4 pm Open Class Floriculture & Horticulture must be in place - EC

5 pm Youth Draft Horse Evaluations - DHB

5 pm FAIR OPENING CEREMONIES / PARADE (Grandstands will be cleared after parade) - GS

7 pm STREET LEGAL PICKUP TRUCK & SEMI TRACTOR PULL - GS

MONDAY, July 30 - PAID ADMISSION BEGINS

AT 8 Am

VETERANS' DAY - FREE ADMISSION - Must Show ID

8 am Youth & Pee Wee/Cloverbud Dairy Show - SA

8:30 am Youth Horse & Pony - English Showmanship, Pleasure, Equitation, Dressage - HR

9 am Youth & Pee Wee/Cloverbud Sheep Show - SA

3:30 pm Youth Dairy Feeder Steer Show - SA

5 pm Carnival Opens - MW

7 pm Cass County's Got Talent Prelims - Nick's Stage

7 pm SUPER KICKERS RODEO - GS

TUESDAY, July 31 - KIDDIES' DAY - CHILDREN 6-12 FREE ADMISSION

8 am Scales open for Farm Tractor Pull - IF

8:30 am Youth Horse & Pony, Western & Ranch Showmanship, & Western, Ranch & Walk/Trot Horsemanship - HR

9 am FARM TRACTOR & ANTIQUE TRACTOR PULL - GS

9 am Youth & Pee Wee/Cloverbud Swine Show - SA

1 pm Kiddies' Day Program (1-2:30 pm) - CB

2 pm Carnival Opens - MW

5 pm Open & Youth Draft Horse Cart & Youth Team classes - DHR

7 pm Karaoke - Preliminaries - Nicks Stage

7 pm NTPA REGIONAL NATIONAL TRACTOR & TRUCK PULLS - GS

WEDNESDAY, August 1 - LAW ENFORCEMENT DAY

8:30 am Youth Horse & Pony - Western, Ranch & Walk-Trot Pleasure, Jumping, Versatility - HR

9 am Youth Beef Show - SA

9 am Youth & Pee Wee/Cloverbud Rabbit Show - BB

10 am Draft Horse Halter Classes - DHR

1:30 pm Youth Goat Show (All classes except cart, obstacle, and costume) - SA

2 pm Carnival Opens - MW

5 pm Youth Draft Horse Show - DHR

6 pm Youth Horse & Pony - HR

7 pm DRAKE WHITE WITH SPECIAL GUEST OPENER EVERETTE - GS

THURSDAY, August 2 - SENIOR CITIZENS' DAY (60 & OLDER)

8:30 am Youth Horse & Pony Show - Trail, English/Western Riding, Reining, Freestyle Reining - HR

9 am Youth & Pee Wee/Cloverbud Poultry Show - PB & BB

9 am Senior Citizens Day Program - Presented by Cass County Council on Aging - CB

10 am Youth Market Livestock Auction - Lambs, Dairy Feeder, Beef, Gallon of Milk, Draft Horse, Swine NOTE: Buyer Dinner will be provided during the auction with no organized break - SA

Noon Youth & Pee Wee/Cloverbud Cat Show - CB

2 pm Carnival Opens - MW

3 pm Euchre Tournament - CB

6 pm Draft Horse Utility Classes followed by Obstacle Class - DHR

7 pm DEMOLITION DERBY (wagons, sedans, 2WD trucks, vans, sub-urbans, mini trucks, mini vans, mini cars) - GS

FRIDAY, August 3 - HOMEMAKER'S DAY, 4-H DAY

HOMEMAKERS ADMITTED FREE UNTIL 9:30 Am

8:30 am Youth Horse & Pony Keyhole, Speed & Action, Kegs, Poles, Flags, Barrels - HR

9 am Homemakers' Day Program CB

10 am Pedal Pull - MW

10 am Youth Livestock Judging Contest - SA

1 pm Youth Interviews & Demonstrations - GZ

2 pm Carnival Opens - MW

2 pm Ag Olympics - SA

4 pm Youth Goat Costume, Cart, & Obstacle Show (following Ag Olympics) - SA

4 pm Small Animal Sweepstakes - SA

6 pm Showmanship Sweepstakes - SA

7 pm SJO SUPER CROSS CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES - SA

7 pm Karaoke & Cass County's Got Talent Finals - Nick's Stage

At Dusk - FIREWORKS (rain date: Saturday) - GS

SATURDAY, August 4 - FAMILY \$1 DAY, NOON TO 6 PM

9 am Youth Horse & Pony - Costume, Cloverbud/Pee Wee, - HR

9 am Youth Small Animal Auction - Rabbits, Eggs, Poultry, Goats - SA

10 am (Drive In) Open Draft & Light Draft Cart & Hitch Show - DHR

1 pm Equine Awards Ceremony/Last Ride - HR

3 pm Adult Alumni Horse Showmanship Fundraiser - HR

6 pm Adult Alumni Goat Showmanship Fundraiser - SA

7 pm MONSTER TRUCKS - GS

8:45 pm Home Arts Quilt Raffle Drawing - FO

Location Codes:

BB - Bergman Building

CB - Agnes Gregarek Community Bldg.

DHB - Draft Horse Barn

DHR - Draft Horse Ring

EC - Darlene B. Lowe Exhibit Complex

FO - Fair Office

GS - Grandstand

GZ - Gazebo

HR - Horse Ring

IF - Infield

PB - Poultry Barn

SA - Show & Sale Arena



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REGIONAL EVENTS CALENDAR

June 28 - Silent Art Auction Round Oak Revisited, 5:30-7:30

June 28 - Wildlife Safari, 10 am at Main Library, Don't miss this live animal show! Always amazing, free and open to the public! Cass District Library - Main Library, 357-7822

June 28 - Wildlife Safari, 1 pm at Mason/Union Branch, Don't miss this live animal show! Always amazing, free and open to the public! Cass District Library - Mason/Union Branch, 357-7821

June 28-July 1 - Peter Pan, Barn Swallow Theatre, 22334 US-12, Edwardsburg, 7:30 pm Th, F, Sat, 2 pm Sun, \$12 adults, \$10 seniors, 12 & under \$5

June 29 - Friday Night Firefly Lights, Bendix Woods County Park, South Bend, 9 pm, 574-654-3155

June 29 - Wildlife Safari, 10 am at Edwardsburg Branch, Don't miss this live animal show! Always amazing, free and open to the public! Cass District Library - Edwardsburg Branch, 487-9215

June 29 - Wildlife Safari, 1 pm at Howard Branch, Don't miss this live animal show! Always amazing, free and open to the public! Cass District Library - Howard Branch, 487-9214

July 3 - Sensory Explosion Begins, Tuesdays at 10 am, Fun sensory activities for ages 2-5, Will meet the first 4 weeks in July, Cass District Library - Howard Branch, 487-9214

July 3 - The Niles Fourth of July Fireworks Spectacular 9:40 pm Apple Festival Grounds, 1740 Lake St.

July 7 - Diamond Lake Fireworks, 10:30 pm, Fireworks Island, Rain/Wind delay date will be Sunday July 8

July 7 - Birch Lake Fireworks; dark

July 8 - Antique & Vintage Flea Market, Centerville, 715-526-9769, www.zurkopromotions

July 9 - Wizarding Wands Craft, 1 pm, Call to register, Participants will create their own wizard wand, Cass District Library - Mason/Union Branch, 357-7821

July 9 - Wizarding Wands Craft, 6 pm, Call to register, Participants will create their own wizard wand, Cass District Library - Edwardsburg Branch, 487-9215

July 10 - Rocks Rock! Club, 10 am, Call to register, Designed for kids in 3rd-5th grade, Meets 3 consecutive weeks, Enjoy hands-on activities and experiments as you learn about rocks and minerals. Cass District Library - Edwardsburg Branch, 487-9215

July 10 - Rocks Rock! Club, 1 pm, Call to register, Designed for kids in 3rd-5th grade, Meets 3 consecutive weeks, Enjoy hands-on activities and experiments as you learn about rocks and minerals. Cass District Library - Main Library, 357-7822

July 11 - Summer Story Time, Wednesdays at 10 am,

Fun filled story time for ages 3-5, Cass District Library - Mason/Union Branch, 357-7821

July 11 - Wizarding Wands Craft, 1 pm, Call to register, Participants will create their own wizard wand, Cass District Library - Howard Branch, 487-9214

July 11 - Wizarding Wands Craft, 6 pm, Call to register, Participants will create their own wizard wand, Cass District Library - Main Library, 357-7822

July 13 - Underground Railroad Days opening night, Ross Beatty High School, 7 pm.

July 13 - Summer Story Time, Fridays at 10 am, Fun filled story time for ages 3-5, Cass District Library - Edwardsburg Branch, 487-9215

July 14 - Free Beginners' Disc Golf lessons, 1 pm, Ferrettie/Baugo Creek County Park, Osceola, 574-674-9765, www.sjcparks.org

July 14, 15 - Underground Railroad Days, guided tours of Kentucky Raid sites, Civil War Colored Troops Encampment, Milo Barnes Park, Vandalia, 11 am - 5 pm. Soul Food dinner all day, Vandalia Village Hall, \$10, Bogue Home open for Tours, www.urscc.org

July 16-20 - Harry Potter Escape Room, Call to register for an available time slot, The Escape Room is for teens and adults and is free to attend, Cass District Library - Main Library, Call Stephanie at 749-1384

July 18 - Sheriff Dept. presentation about active shooter, 6 pm, Cass Fellowship Bible Church, 64106 M-62, Cassopolis, 274-5726

July 18 - Native American Authors by Stephanie Ballew, 7 pm, Edwardsburg Area Historical Museum

July 18 - Lunch Bunch Story Time, Wednesdays at 11:30 am, Fun for the whole family, Bring your own picnic lunch and listen to stories while you eat, Cass District Library - Edwardsburg Branch, 487-9215

July 19 - Kennedy's Kitchen Irish Music, 10 am, Family friendly program is all things Irish from songs, stories, recitation, and dance tunes, Free and open to the public. Cass District Library - Main Library, 357-7822

July 19 - Kennedy's Kitchen Irish Music, 1 pm, Family friendly program is all things Irish from songs, stories, recitation, and dance tunes, Free and open to the public. Cass District Library - Mason/Union Branch, 357-7821

July 19 - Kennedy's Kitchen Irish Music, 3 pm, Family friendly program is all things Irish from songs, stories, recitation, and dance tunes, Free and open to the public. Cass District Library - Edwardsburg Branch, 487-9215

July 19 - Kennedy's Kitchen Irish Music, 6 pm, Family friendly program is all things Irish from songs, stories, recitation, and dance tunes, Free and open to the public. Cass District Library - Howard Branch, 487-9214

July 20, 21 - Rummage/Bake Sale, First United Methodist Church, 326 N. Lowe St., Dowagiac, 9 am - 3 pm Friday, 9 am - 2 pm Saturday, 782-8551

July 21 - Diamond Lake Triathlon, 7:30 - 10:30 am, Diamond Lake Marina

July 21 - T-shirt Contest, Turn in your t-shirt design for the Summer Library Club t-shirt contest at Cass District Library! Call for more info. Cass District Library - 1-866-808-7323

July 23-26 - Harry Potter Escape Room, Call to register for an available time slot, The Escape Room is for teens and adults and is free to attend, Cass District Library - Main Library, Call Stephanie at 749-1384

July 23 - Rock Painting, 1 pm, Call to register, This program is for teens and adults. This program is free and all materials will be provided. Cass District Library - Mason/Union Branch, 357-7821

July 24 - 5 pm - The National Association of Retired Federal Employees SW Michigan Chapter 572 monthly meeting, Super Buffet, Benton Harbor (next to Big Lots). All retired/current federal employees, spouses/families welcome. For information, call Jean Rowe at 782 2769 or e mail jeanrowe70@comcast.net

July 25 - Rocks Rock!, 1 pm, Designed for elementary age and older, Enjoy hands-on activities and experiments as you learn about rocks and minerals. Cass District Library - Mason/Union Branch, 357-7821

July 26 - Rocks Rock!, 1 pm, Designed for elementary age and older, Enjoy hands-on activities and experiments as you learn about rocks and minerals. Cass District Library - Howard Branch, 487-9214 August 12 - Free Beginners' Disc Golf lessons, 1 pm, Ferrettie/Baugo Creek County Park, Osceola, 574-674-9765, www.sjcparks.org

July 27 - Movie "Woodland" with Frankline Graham, 6:30 pm, Cass Fellowship Bible Church, 64106 M-62, Cassopolis, 274-5726

July 30 - August 4 - Cass County 4H Fair, Fairgrounds, Cassopolis, http://www.mycasscountyfair.com/

August 4 - Pancake & Sausage breakfast, 9-11 am, Cass Fellowship Bible Church, 64106 M-62, Cassopolis, 274-5726

August 13 - Antique & Vintage Flea Market, Centerville, 715-526-9769, www.zurkopromotions

August 16, 17 - Annual yard sale, 9 am - 3 pm, Cass Fellowship Bible Church, 64106 M-62, Cassopolis, 274-5726

August 16-19 - Dorothy in Wonderland, Barn Swallow Theatre, 22334 US-12, Edwardsburg, 7:30 pm Th, F, Sat, 2 pm Sun

August 16 - "How Far We Have Come," exhibit, 7 pm, Edwardsburg Area Historical Museum

August 16 - Folk Singer Barbara Barton performing at Edwardsburg Area Historical Museum, 7 pm

August 18, 19 - Lubeznik Center for the Arts Festival, Michigan City, IN, \$5, www.lubeznikcenter.org, 219.874.4900

August 19 - Edwardsburg Area Historical Museum open house, 3:30 pm

August 25 - Blues, Brews & BBQ, Cass County COA, \$50, 445-8110

August 28 - 5 pm - The National Association of Retired Federal Employees SW Michigan Chapter 572 monthly meeting at the Super Buffet in Benton Harbor (next to Big Lots). All retired/current federal employees, spouses/families are welcome. For information, call Jean Rowe, 782 2769 or e mail jeanrowe70@comcast.net

September 6-9 - Michigan Flywheelers' Antique Engine and Tractor Show, South Haven, www.michiganflywheelers.org

September 20 - Sherman Ostrander will speak on Leading the Edwardsburg School for 23 years, 7 pm, Edwardsburg Area Historical Museum

September 25 - 5 pm - The National Association Retired Federal Employees SW Michigan Chapter 572 monthly meeting at the Super Buffet in Benton Harbor (next to Big Lots). All retired/current federal employees, spouses/families are welcome. For information, call Jean Rowe, 782 2769 or e mail jeanrowe70@comcast.net

October 4, 5 - 2018 Michigan Inland Lakes Convention, Crowne Plaza Hotel Grand Rapids (Airport), http://www.canr.msu.edu/michiganlakes/convention

October 13 - Andy Warhol exhibit, Lubeznik Center for the Arts, Michigan City, IN, 219-874-4900, lubeznik-center.org

October 14 - Antique & Vintage Flea Market, Centerville, 715-526-9769, www.zurkopromotions

October 18 - Edward Patzer on growing up in Edwardsburg and the Edwardsburg Sports Complex, 7 pm, Edwardsburg Area Historical Museum

October 18, 19 - Lubeznik Art Festival, Lubeznik Center for the Arts, Michigan City, IN, \$5/day, 219-874-4900, lubeznikcenter.org

October 23 - 5 pm the National Association Retired Federal Employees SW Michigan Chapter 572 monthly meeting at the Super Buffet in Benton Harbor (next to Big Lots). All retired/current federal employees, spouses/families are welcome. For information, call Jean Rowe, 782 2769 or e mail jeanrowe70@comcast.net

November 7 - Edwardsburg Area Historical Museum final exhibit of 10-foot-high Christmas tree. Season closes Dec. 15

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PASTA ITALIA CON CHEF DONATO

Buerre Blanc with Fresh Raspberries

by Chef Dennis Bamber

Grilling season is upon us and here is a very famous French sauce with raspberries that is easy to make and is delicious on salmon, chicken or vegetables.

Buerre Blanc literally means white butter. Restaurants often add cream to this sauce to keep it together and keeping the butter from emulsifying and separating.

The key to making this without cream, is to keep the temperature low when adding the butter and serve immediately. You can make this without the raspberries and lemon juice if you prefer and it is still delicious. You can also strain the sauce if you do not want the shallots in the sauce, but I prefer to have the shallots in the serving of the sauce.

~Boun Appetito

INGREDIENTS:

2 sticks of unsalted cold butter cut into tablespoon chunks
1 small finely chopped shallot
1/2 cup of white wine
1/2 cup of white vinegar
1 teaspoon of fresh lemon juice
1 cup of fresh whole raspberries

DIRECTIONS:

Put the shallots, wine and vinegar into a sauce pan and bring to a boil and cook down until there is only 2 tablespoons of liquid left.

Reduce the heat to low and add 1 pat of butter at a time whisking it continually.

When all the butter is used, add



the raspberries and whisk a minute or two until they break down and add the lemon juice and serve over the salmon or grilled chicken.

I made this last night and I poached the salmon but you can use it over grilled, broiled or baked salmon as well.

Dennis Bamber is an avid cook. He grew up in the restaurant business and has traveled extensively worldwide as well as being a partner in a business in Paris for 9 years. He is a second generation Italian-American. He is currently a Realtor with Cressy & Everett, licensed in Michigan and Indiana, and specializes in lake property.



TO YOUR HEALTH!

Are braces the right fit for you?

Did you know that according to the American Association of Orthodontists, over 4 million Americans are undergoing some type of orthodontic treatment? And that about 25 percent of those are adults? With school letting out for the summer, many parents are taking advantage of a more flexible schedule to explore treatment options for their children. But orthodontics aren't just for kids anymore, with the advancing technology of clear aligners more adults are choosing to address crooked teeth or an uncomfortable bite.

So what can orthodontics do for you? What are some of the signs that you or your child would benefit from orthodontics? Here are some common problems that are good indicators for needing braces:

Crossbite: Do the top teeth fit over the bottom teeth? If not, this is known as a crossbite.

Crowding: Your child doesn't have to have all of his or her permanent teeth to tell if they are crowded. If the permanent teeth are coming in all jumbled up, it's time to talk to a dentist.

Impacted teeth: When the teeth don't come in when they are supposed to, often as a result of crowding. The tooth

can become trapped in the bone or resorb the root of another permanent tooth that may be in the way.

Overjet (often referred to as overbite): How far the upper teeth protrude over the lower teeth; if this is excessive it can make it hard to chew properly.

Malocclusion: Teeth that don't come together properly or don't touch at all.

Straightening crowded teeth makes them easier to clean and prevents cavities or gum disease. Correcting a "bad bite" or malocclusion can help prevent abnormal wearing of teeth and jaw joint problems in the future. Often, kids as young as 7 years old who have certain issues can benefit from early treatment.

The most common early treatment is maxillary expansion, or widening of the upper jaw. Because kids at this age are still growing, the palate can be widened gently and easily. There is evidence that expansion of a constricted upper jaw can help with breathing problems related to sleep apnea and symptoms of ADHD. Palatal expansion can provide the room needed to line the permanent teeth up without having to extract any teeth and create a nice, broad smile.

Adults and teens may also seek treat-

ment for these same reasons. The main two orthodontic appliances to help with your aesthetic and health concerns are: the "fixed appliance" (aka braces) and the "clear aligners." The "fixed appliance" consists of brackets affixed to the teeth with a special adhesive. A series of wires are placed and can be adjusted to level and align the teeth. Elastics, or "rubber bands," are hooked in different combinations helping to coordinate the jaws and guide the teeth into the proper bite.

New materials allow today's brackets to be smaller and lower profile than those of yesteryear. There are also clear or tooth colored porcelain brackets that can be a more aesthetic option for someone who needs a fixed appliance. An advantage of the fixed appliance is that you don't have to remember to take it in and out or worry about losing it.

The "clear aligners" (such as Invisalign® or Clear Correct®) are a series of trays made to be changed every week or two that gradually move the teeth. Elastics can also be used with clear aligners to help coordinate the jaws. Besides the aesthetics, the advantage of a clear aligner is that it is removed to clean the teeth, which is a lot easier than trying to brush and floss around braces.

The main disadvantage is that you are responsible for wearing them as directed. The technology of the clear aligner has advanced and depending on the practitioner there are a broad range of cases in teens and adults that can be treated with clear aligners.

What about the 'do it yourself' stuff you see on the internet?

"DIY" is everywhere, but there is a reason "Pinterest fails" is a thing. Fabricating your own appliance is a bad idea -- people have essentially pulled their own teeth trying to close spaces with rubber bands. There are multiple companies marketing clear aligners directly to the public. I give a lot of direction on each of my Invisalign® cases and I don't see how you can cut out the input of an experienced practitioner.

Whether or not braces are on your radar, a healthy smile helps keep your body healthy and boosts your confidence. There is no substitute for great home oral hygiene habits and seeing your dentist regularly. Orthodontics can be a great tool to help you keep your smile big and bright.

This article was provided by Roger Pecina of Afdent, 605 West Douglas Rd., Mishawaka, IN 46545, (574) 277-7770.

LAKE LIFE WITH JANE

Smack dab in the middle of summer

by **Jane Boudreau**

Hey Neighbors! Happy July! Looks like we are now smack dab in the middle of summer.

Considering we skipped spring, that's not a far fetched idea. I'm still planting pots of flowers. Every time I look at a drab space that needs a face lift, I'm back at the nursery or one of the big-box stores. Then I end up with more flowers than I need so I'm sticking them anywhere and everywhere. And this was the summer I said I was going to be a minimalist. Yup.

I like decorating for Memorial Day and saving my little stash for the 4th of July. If you want to get a lot of bang for your buck, hit the dollar stores. I'm so cheap, I save my decorations each year. If you don't have time to fuss, get the kids to do it. Crepe paper wrapped around outdoor porches and trees; red, white and blue ribbons and bows wherever you can add them. You can make your own banners with construction paper and jute string. But seriously, the little dollars stores have everything you could want.

Try to group your decorations in one area. Scattering bits and pieces of red, white and blue all over your backyard, patio, or deck isn't going to have any impact. Try to make a patriotic display on your buffet table. Jazz up the kitchen if that's where you tend to gather. I like the little flags on a stick to point down into potted plants. I group a few of my pots together so just one or two of them are fine.

My favorite decoration at the lake is using daisies that I grow in a garden bed. We planted them along the shed and never knew they would give us such an abundance of flowers every year. I like to fill a few glass vases with water tinted with blue food coloring. Then I add red carnations and a few of my cut daisies.



Celebrating the 4th on Diamond Lake has always been a great, fun-filled holiday since the day we bought our home. There's a live band near the sandbar where everyone gets into the mood; dancing teens (and the young at heart), toting babies or playing Frisbee with Rover ... all in waist-high water. I took this picture a few years ago. It was an overcast day but you can see, it didn't have much of an effect on the festive mood.

There's also a boat parade, and at dusk; a fireworks display which you can



watch from your anchored boat out on the lake. Just being on the lake at night is a serious thrill, and being surrounded in the dark by a zillion boats with their lights on.



We've hosted 4th of July parties with over 25 guests. Teens don't mind crashing on the sofas or a blow-up bed, and we

and lick my whiskers.

So here are a few tried-and-true, guest-friendly summertime tips:

~ Help to keep everyone hydrated by serving fruit, especially melon. It beats

salty snacks that just cause more thirst. Beware of flies and gnats that love the sweet stuff. Keep your bowls covered with plastic wrap and when it looks like no one is devouring it, pop it back in the fridge to bring out later.

~Speaking of pesky insects, place a few trash cans around where the crowds tend to gather. For us it's the patio and beach, at night, the fire pit. People tend to leave empty cups, plates and other items with food on the main table. If you want to use that table later in the evening or in the morning for breakfast, keep it clear and wiped up so you don't have flies prancing around on it. To me, everything is sticky in the summer. I keep a container of wet wipes on the patio table for everyone to grab. If you have someone like my wonderful husband, ask him to hose down the patio or deck early in the morning after a late night party. This will get rid of any spills or crumbs that could attract more insects.

~Bottled water is overused in my book. My heart breaks when I walk around picking up bottles that looks like someone took three sips and walked away. I do try to recycle by using it in the dog's water bowls. Sometimes its not so much the money I spend on it as it is my poor back when I have to lift those cases in the grocery store. I think bottled water is a must-have for grabbing on your way out the door if you don't have time, or are too lazy to fill one of your own giant, plastic bottles from Walmart or the like. Outdoors at my house, you have to have them for those boat rides or any time you want a sip and screw the cap on. So I started to keep a permanent marker near the cooler so we could put our initials on our bottles. Sadly, no one particularly cares to hear their names

called out, "Grace O'Hara, you have 3/4 of a bottle of water over here. Come and finish it up!" So tightwad Jane purchased a few Target type clear pitchers and used some saved wine carafes, and she now serves good old tap water with pretty lemons floating on the top, some clear plastic disposable cups, and straws. Its now the "In Drink." Its also nice to have a small ice bucket hidden nearby to keep that stuff frosty. Can you believe I've droned on this long about water???



I find that we end up eating a lot of fatty foods in the summer when you consider all the meats we grill and carbs from the side dish. Its great that so many of us are now grilling vegetables, not only for our health, but for the convenience of having everything outside on the grill at once. That said, I thought I'd share some healthy fish recipes that can be prepared indoors and baked in the oven, or on your grill while you enjoy the warm weather. I would suggest that you check around for a grill pan that is made specifically for tender foods that might stick or fall apart on the grill.

Blackened Fish Tacos with Avocado-Cilantro Sauce

We are starting to see fish tacos pop up on restaurant menus more and more these days. I had my first in San Diego where the fish is fresh and the flavor is beyond any type of fish prepared any sort of way. This is a somewhat spicy dish, but the heat is mellowed out by the slaw and creamy avocado dressing.

Ingredients:

1.5 lbs. tilapia or cod fillets
1 1/2 t smoked paprika
1 t garlic powder
1 t dried oregano
1 t onion powder
1/2 t cumin
1/2 t salt
1/2 t brown sugar
1/4 t cayenne pepper
2 T veggie oil
12 corn tortillas

***For the slaw:

Ingredients:

1/2 red cabbage, sliced thin
1/4 green cabbage, sliced thin
1/2 medium sweet onion
1/2 c chopped cilantro
Juice of 1 lime

***For the avocado-cilantro sauce:

Ingredients:

1/2 c sour cream
1 ripe avocado, peeled and pitted
1/4 c cilantro
1 jalapeno, seeded and chopped
Salt to taste

Continued on next page. See:

JANE

JANE

Continued from previous page



Directions:

In a small bowl mix together all of the spices and gently pat into both sides of the fish

Combine all of the avocado-cilantro sauce in a food processor or blender until well combined.

Prepare the cabbage slaw.

Use the veggie oil to lightly coat your grill or grill pan. Cook the fillets over high but not direct heat, 4 minute per side. This can also be done in a heavy skillet on your stove. Remove the fish from the heat and if desired, warm the tortillas for 30 minutes on each side.

Gently break up the tile into large

chunks. Stack the tortilla in twos. Distribute the fish evenly between the 6 sets of tortillas and top with the slaw and sauce. Serves 4-6

This recipe is not as busy as it sounds. I make my sauce and slaw the day before and keep it refrigerated. The spice mix can be made ahead, in fact, you might want to double or triple the ingredients as it makes a tasty seasoning for all types of fish and meats.

I also like to make a buffet so guests can make their own tacos.

Creamy Spinach Stuffed Salmon

Ingredients:

4 skinless salmon fillets
Salt and pepper to season
2 T lemon juice
2 T olive oil, divided
1 T butter

***Filling:

Ingredients:

4 oz. cream cheese, softened, at room temperature
4 oz. frozen spinach, thawed and squeezed of excess water
1/4 c grated Parmesan cheese
2 t minced garlic
S & P to taste

***Optional Garlic Butter

Ingredients:

1 T softened butter
1 T minced garlic
1 T lemon juice

Directions:

Season the salmon fillets on both sides with the salt, pepper, 1 tablespoon of olive oil and lemon juice.

Cut a slit or pocket 3/4 of the way down the long side of the fillet creating a pocket.

In a medium bowl mix together the filling ingredients. Fill the pockets with 1-2 tablespoons of the spinach mixture.



Cover with plastic wrap and keep refrigerated no less than 1/2 hour.

Prepare grill, using a sheet of non stick foil on which to place the fish. Lightly coat with a tablespoon of olive oil. I also suggest using a grill pan instead. Close grill and cook over medium heat about 4-5 minutes, flipping over halfway, until fish is cooked through. Transfer to a warm plate and make the garlic butter if so desired. Place a dab on each fillet before serving. Serves 4

*Tips

Flipping the salmon is easiest if you use a spatula on the bottom to lift, and a wooden spoon on top. I've rarely had a problem with the salmon falling apart as it's a nice firm fish.

I suggest chilling the filling before stuffing the salmon as it will be easier to work with. Use the back of a teaspoon to

evenly spread the mixture flat, and try to keep it a little bit back from the opening so it doesn't spill out. This recipe can also be made on your stove top.

I hope you all are enjoying your summer thus far. The weather is a little quirky, but after this hideous winter, I'll take even that.

Wishing you a fun filled 4th of July and I'll see you in August!

~Jane

Jane Boudreau is a writer, Chicago newspaper columnist, and blogger. She splits up her time between Chicago, Michigan, and a home in the mountains of North Carolina. You can contact her at blndy9@yahoo.com. Her blog address is [Blondies Journals.blogspot.com](http://BlondiesJournals.blogspot.com).

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* Information provided by the Southwest Michigan Association of Realtors (MLS). Sales of inland lake properties in Cass County, Michigan, from 1.1.12 to 12.31.17.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Stay cool during the Dog Days of Summer

By Charlie Retherford
Kemner-Iott Benz Agency
of Cass County

Hello again. Clyde, my trusty Cocker Spaniel and I are back with some more timely information!

It's about to be Clyde's least favorite time of year, "The Dog Days of Summer". I'm sure that most of you have heard the phrase before and, like me, you probably thought it was referring to the weather being too hot for even the sun-worshippers to enjoy. This saying comes from the ancient Greeks and refers to the early rising of the star, Sirius, in the Canis Major Constellation, which occurs in late July and happens to coincide with the hottest time of year. This constellation is commonly known as, "The Big Dog", which brings us back to "The Dog Days of Summer".

How do you stay cool when it's hot enough to fry an egg on the sidewalk and you don't have a pool or an air-conditioner? Here are a few tips and tricks to help you beat the heat:

- 1.) Point your fan OUT the window so hot air is removed from your home.
- 2.) Keep the lights and all unnecessary appliances off when you don't need them.
- 3.) Place a cold, damp cloth on your neck, wrists, or behind your knees for

- an instant cool-down.
- 4.) Place a bowl of ice in front of your fan to cool the air.
 - 5.) Fill a cotton sock with rice, tie it with twine, and freeze it before putting it in bed.
 - 6.) Put your bed sheets in the freezer for a few hours before you go to bed.
 - 7.) Eat spicy foods. Really!
 - 8.) Use sun blocking curtains to keep the heat out.
 - 9.) Hang a damp sheet in front of an open window or outside in front of a fan.
 - 10.) Close the damper on your fireplace to prevent pulling in hot air.

There are even some unusual gadgets available to keep you cool, such as, a fan that plugs into your cell phone, a cooling system for your child's stroller, and ice vests.

Don't forget your pets! Make sure they always have plenty of water. Throw an ice cube in their water bowl occasionally and maybe offer them a wet towel to lie on. Remember that the pavement can be extremely hot, so midday walks are out, and shade is a must for your outside pets. And please do not leave them in a car during this time of year.

No matter how uncomfortable you think you are, keep in mind how hot it must be for farmers, roofers, construction workers, or factory workers. While

you may be sitting in an air-conditioned office or lounging poolside, those men and women are sizzling under the sun or slowly baking beside hot machinery. Maybe you aren't as hot as you thought, after all.

When the temperatures are soaring, remember to check on your elderly or ill neighbors.

Here's to hoping you can be poolside on a hot day, and if not, enjoy some of our tips to beat the heat and stay cool during "The Dog Days of Summer."



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REAL ESTATE

The housing market in Cass County

Overall home sales in Cass County in May were boosted by the increased sales of non-waterfront houses just as in April. There were 11 more homes sold overall in May 2018 when compared to May 2017 (66 vs. 55). Year-to-date, the housing market was up 4 percent in May 2018 (237 vs. 227).

The number of waterfront homes sold in May increased by 2 houses from May 2017 (18 vs. 16). Non-waterfront home sales increased by 9 houses in May 2018 (48 vs. 39).

The overall average selling price dropped 2 percent with waterfront prices increasing while non-waterfront prices decreasing (\$194,231 vs. \$197,288). The median selling price for all homes in May fell 30 percent to \$123,000 from \$175,500 in May 2017.

The average selling price for waterfront homes increased 12 percent in May to \$343,304 from \$305,981 in May 2017. The median selling price for waterfront homes rose 8 percent (\$260,000 vs. \$239,950).

The average selling price for non-waterfront homes in May dropped 9 percent to \$138,328 from \$152,697 in May 2017. The median selling price tumbled 33 percent to \$88,500 from \$133,000 in May 2017.

The median price is the price at which 50 percent of the homes sold were above that price and 50 percent were below.

In Cass County, the number of bank-owned or foreclosed homes as a part of all closed transactions in May increased to 12 percent from 8 percent in April. The highest percentage in the month of May previously was 16 percent in 2014.

For comparison the number of bank-owned or foreclosed homes as a percentage of all transactions in Berrien, 2.3 of Van Buren and Cass Counties increased slightly to 5.6-months supply from 4.9-months supply in April. The inventory at the end of May was 1704 compared to 1501 houses at the end of April. In May 2017, the inventory was 1956 houses for sale. Which was a 13 percent drop in inventory from last year to May 2018. In May 2010 the inventory of houses for sale was 3602.

Throughout the area, the inventory of houses for sale in Berrien, Cass and the westerly 2/3 of Van Buren counties at the end of May was 1704 compared to 1501 houses at the end of April. In May 2017, the inventory was 1956 houses for sale. Which was a 13 percent drop in inventory from last year to May 2018. In May 2010 the inventory of houses for sale was 3602.

Since March, the momentum in number of houses sold has picked up while the increase in the housing inventory has been very marginal. The low inventory has kept the number of houses sold down 6 percent

year-to-date. After two years of breaking records in the number of home sales, this year sales have fallen to fourth place in the year-over-year comparison back to 2006. In just the month of May 2018, the number of houses sold fell 4 percent below May 2017 (328 vs. 341).

Selling prices have continued to climb. From April to May this year, the average selling price increased 20 percent (\$256,923 vs. \$213,923) and the median selling price increased 44 percent (\$163,000 vs. \$154,950).

Comparing to May 2017, the average selling price was up 15 percent in May 2018 (\$256,923 vs. \$224,204). Year-to-date, the average selling price was up 9 percent (\$223,910 vs. \$205,177). Both the May and year-to-date average selling price set records for the highest average selling prices in the year-over-year comparison since 2006.

There was only \$2,000 difference in the median selling price in May 2018 from May 2017 (\$163,000 vs. \$165,000). The year-to-date median selling price at \$154,250 was up 6 percent from May 2017 (\$145,000) and set a record in the year-over-year comparison.

Overall in SWMI, the mortgage increased to 4.75 from 4.602 in April. Last year in May, the rate was 4.129. Nationally, the Freddie Mac mortgage rate in May was 4.56 down slightly

from 4.58 in April for a 30-year conventional mortgage.

This data reflects home sales across Berrien, Cass and the westerly 2/3 of Van Buren counties and should not be used to determine the market value of any individual property. If you want to know the market value of your property, please contact your local REALTOR®.

When Selling a Home...

Homeowners considering taking on a renovation project may want to look outside to get the most bang for their buck. A study from the National Association of REALTORS® and the National Association of Landscape Professionals found that outdoor remodeling projects bring great value – both emotionally and financially – to the homeowners who complete them. The study found that the most cost-effective project was implementing standard lawn care, which recoups 267 percent of the project cost at resale.

Check out NAR's 2018 Remodeling Report: Outdoor Features for more information on various outdoor renovation projects. Definitely, ask your REALTOR® about the benefits of improving your home's curb appeal to make your home competitive in the market and attractive to buyers.

Continued on next page

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REAL ESTATE

When Buying a Home...

Buying and moving into a new home is both an exciting and overwhelming time whether you are a first-time homeowner or a previous homeowner. It can be tempting to go straight to doing all the things you could never do when you had a landlord, like paint the walls. However, there are a few things all homeowners should tackle before they get to the "fun" stuff.

The first thing homeowners should do is change the locks. Spare keys could be floating around anywhere, and there is no way to know who may have one, so it is crucial to get new locks when you move in. In the same spirit, reset the key codes for garage doors, gates or lock boxes. You have no idea if the previous owner shared them with the neighbors!

Start a list of "First Things To Do" and get advice from your REALTOR® about other things you should put on the list. To view properties that are for sale in your area go to www.michric.org and click on "Property Search." The Southwestern Michigan Association of REALTORS®, Inc. is a professional trade association for real estate professionals who are members of the National Association of REALTORS®, and ancillary service providers for the real estate industry in Van Buren, Berrien and Cass Counties. Contact the Association at 269-983-6375 or through their website at www.swmar.com.



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OUR CHILDREN

Learning from scavenger hunts

by **SANDY FLEMING**

Educators are becoming increasingly concerned about “Summer Slide,” where students of all ages lose ground that they’ve worked so hard to gain over the school year. The problem is real, and has caused many classrooms and districts to set aside a few weeks at the start of the school year to simply review and get kids’ brains geared up to get back into the learning groove. In fact, many districts around the country (including some in our own local area) are modifying the traditional summer vacation schedule in an effort to minimize this problem. The research shows that the traditional 10 to 12 week summer vacation does nothing to improve academic achievement, and for many students, sets them back quite a ways.

You can help minimize the Summer Slide for your kids by keeping them mentally active and engaged in learning and other academic tasks throughout the entire vacation. How important do you believe learning to be? Does your attitude show this? I speak to many parents who tell me that “kids need a break from school.” The question is, if learning is so critical to life success, why do they need a break from it? You don’t allow them to take a vacation from brushing their teeth or eating nutritious foods, so why should you allow them to neglect building their mental muscles just because school’s out?

And learning does not need to be boring or stressful! It’s easy to engage brains while kids are relaxing and having fun. One way to do that is to make a game of the learning activities. This month, try some twists on that traditional favorite, the scavenger hunt.

Reading Scavenger Hunts

The very young will benefit from searching for alphabet letters in the environmental print in their world. Give young kids a checklist of some or all of the alphabet letters, and challenge them to find each one in the signs and other print that they see. Let them check off the letters as they find them to add a sense of independence.

You can also send young readers on a scavenger hunt for familiar words in blocks of text, such as old newspapers, magazines, or printed advertisements. Arm kids with highlighting markers, and instruct them to find and highlight words they can read. Keep track by counting the number of highlighted words, and watch your child’s reading improve over the course of the summer!

Readers in the elementary grades will benefit from doing a scavenger hunt through text with a phonics focus. Make a list of a few phonic attributes that your child is learning or has learned recently, such as words that begin with a given letter, have a given vowel sound, have a certain number of syllables, have a specific affix, and so forth, then let them highlight words that represent finds from the list.

Older students can base their scavenger hunts on comprehension exercises. For example, their scavenger hunt list might include things like “Find 4 details about the setting of the book” or “Find the first three steps to complete the process” or “Write down six things that happened to the person in the biography.” Other ideas for a list that exercises comprehension skills include

- Clues that show what decision a character might make later in the story
- Examples of foreshadowing
- Symbols from the story, where a common item represents a deeper meaning
- A certain number of events that happen in the plot

What other creative scavenger hunt ideas can you and your kids generate that will keep the reading train moving this summer? Try them out! The



great thing is that once you design a scavenger hunt for reading, you can likely try it again and again using different books, stories, or articles.

Math Scavenger Hunts

Yes, you can apply this idea to the world of mathematics, as well. There are numbers all around each of us, every day. There are also shapes, fractions, and many other familiar things from math class. Check out these ideas.

Younger children will benefit from looking for groups of items around the house and yard. The scavenger hunt for a counting game could include listing things that have a specific number of examples in the home or yard. Try challenging your child to find something that has 3 examples (like three pictures on the wall in the living room), something that has 4 sides (like a window), or something that has a specific number in the set that are just alike (like 12 spoons in the drawer). Once kids are doing simple addition and subtraction, you can create challenges such as “Find the number of chairs in the house combined with the number of salt and pepper shakers.”

A shapes hunt is a great way to review geometry ideas, too. Young children can simply look for shapes in the environment, such as the circular top of a lampshade or the rectangle of a bed mattress. Older kids can search for shapes with specific areas or perimeters. Try sending the group out to find three-dimensional shapes, such as examples of cubes, cylinders, or spheres.

Try a fraction hunt through the house, as well. Look for printed fractions (like on size tags, measuring cups and spoons, and so forth). You can also have kids search for fractional parts of wholes, like that ½ pizza in the refrigerator, or the set of blocks that are half out of their box. Many windows are split into fractions by their panes, too. Older students can calculate a fractional part of a larger whole number to

solve their hunt, such as “What is ¼ of the books on the shelf?”

A measurement scavenger hunt is fun, too. There are lots of options: Use length measures, weights, English, or metric systems. Give the student a list of measurements and have them find items that match each measure (such as 6 inches wide or 20 centimeters tall).

English/Language Arts Scavenger Hunts

Make your English teacher proud by making lists of Language Arts concepts and vocabulary, then finding examples in books or other printed material. Ideas include:

- Find examples of figurative language, like similes, metaphors, or personification
- Examine poetry to find rhyme and meter patterns
- Examine poetry to find different types of poems (like lyric or limerick)
- Find examples of different kinds of sentences, such as compound or complex.
- Find examples of different kinds of word functions, such as adjectives, direct objects, appositives, etc.
- Scour the book shelf (or the library shelves) and find different classifications of literature.

And of course, these ideas are just the tip of the iceberg. Scavenger hunts can be designed to help kids practice nearly any skill. And when the kids have done the ones that you design, put them to work designing hunts for one another. You can get a lot of educational mileage out of this simple activity.

Sandy Fleming is a tutor and writer living in Edwardsburg. She offers loads of educational activities, classes and workshops online, so check out the full list at <https://sandyflemingonline.com> and <https://virtualsummerschoolonline.com>.

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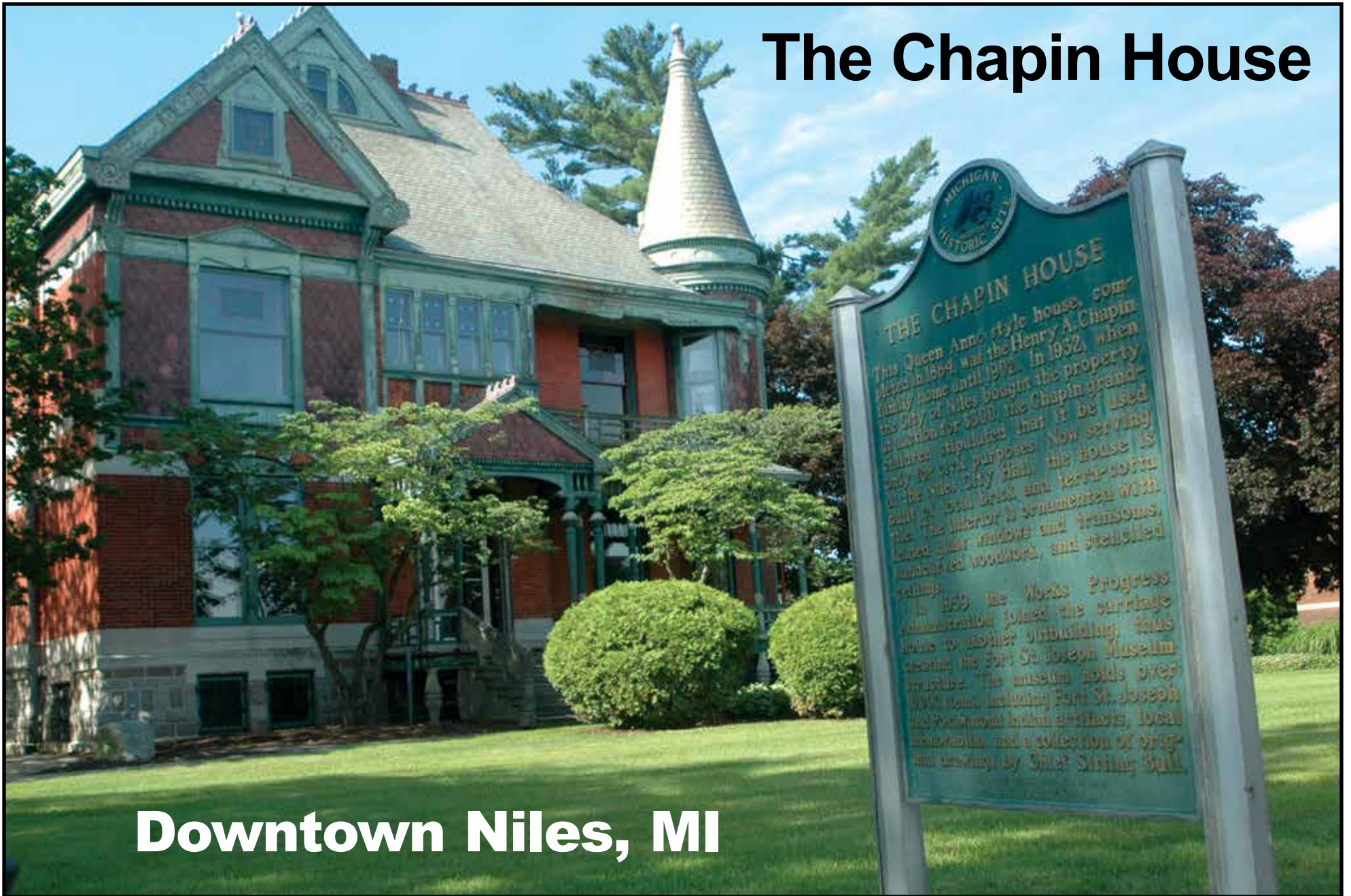
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FIELD TRIP



The historic Henry Chapin House (also known as the Chapin Mansion) in downtown Niles, MI has been undergoing some renovations ... if that's the correct word since the changes have been less about updating and more about restoring parts of the home to the original state. Rooms have been repainted to "original" colors, artwork has been added to show the themes of the original rooms, displays of period furniture have been installed and original chandeliers have been installed.

The Chapin House was donated to the city of Niles in 1933, and it served as the Niles City Hall from somewhere between 1933 and 1937 until December 7, 2012. In May 2013, the administration of the mansion was turned over to the Niles History Center, and the mansion was opened to the public. Chapin Mansion Tour are available Fridays and Saturdays at 11:30 am and 1:30 pm from mid-April through mid-December. Admission is \$5 for adults and children 10 and older

In addition, several new displays have been added at Fort Saint Joseph Historical Museum next door, including a child-friendly, interactive recreation of a historic trading post. The museum is located in the carriage house of the Chapin Mansion, and focuses on the city's history. Exhibits include Fort St. Joseph, built by the French as a trading post in 1691, the Underground Railroad in southern Michigan, area railroads and artifacts of the Lakota people. Fort St. Joseph Museum Hours are Wednesday - Friday from 10 am - 4 pm and Saturday from 10 am - 3 pm.

For more information contact Christina Arseneau, Director, Niles History Center, 508 E Main St. Niles, MI 49120 by phone at 845-4054, x 4010 by email at HCdirector@nilesmi.org or visit <http://www.nilesmi.org>



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HISTORIC POSTCARDS

Historic postcards depict rich scenes of our area's past

In this issue of Neighbors, Jerdon Real Estate of Dowagiac, owned by Floyd Jerdon and his son Tom, has provided antique postcards of a few of the many lakes in our area.

Floyd and his wife Donna started collecting post cards more than 20 years ago, and since Jerdon Real Estate specializes in marketing lake property, it was a natural fit that Floyd's interest be directed to the lake cards. The collection now numbers many thousands.

Jerdon has recently used many of his postcards featuring the Sister Lakes area in a book written by RL Rasmussen. The book, which retails for \$19.99, is in its second printing by the publisher, Arcadia Publishing.

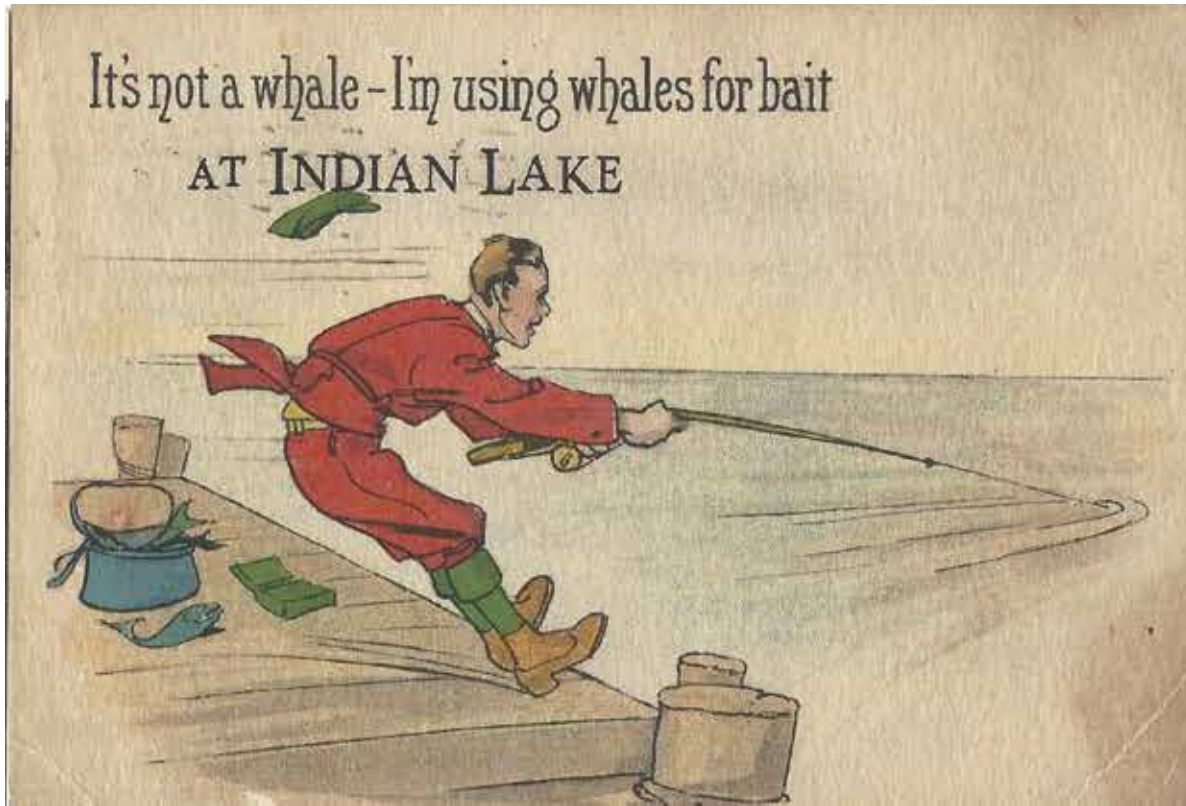
Among other places, the book may be purchased at the Jerdon Real Estate office on M-62 West, and at Whistlestop Gifts, which is operated by the Dowagiac Chamber of Commerce.

For more information or to get a copy of

Jerdon's book, visit the website: www.arcadia-publishing.com

In this edition of Neighbors we have selected postcards showing images of Indian Lake, near Dowagiac, and the nearby area.


In future issues, we will couple additional cards from one or more of the area's lakes with views of nearby communities and countryside.




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NATURE NOTES

Spring bird migration is at its peak

Provided by Cass District Library
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Hans and Suzie Schroeder of Lincoln Township sent in a photo of a male scarlet tanager that had rested upon their bird-feeders on May 9.



Male scarlet tanager rests at feeder of Han and Suzie Schroeder of Lincoln Township, May 15, 2018.

The male scarlet tanager is perhaps one of the most striking birds that occur regularly in Southwest Michigan. During the nesting season the male sports a scarlet body and jet black wings, which understandably led to one of its synonyms being "black-winged redbird," used more frequently in the 1800s.

The adult female appears green and yellow-green, with a gray bill.

Scarlet tanagers nest in forest tracts and woodlots, usually staying up in the canopy where they nest and care for young. Although they can be found nesting among many of our native trees, they seem to prefer the oaks.

The scarlet tanager is predominately an insect eater, but will supplement its diet especially in the spring with seeds and suet cakes.

In last months column, I featured a male summer tanager that appeared at a local feeder. It was noteworthy because the species is generally not found in Southwest Michigan, and the scarlet tanager is more common and more likely to be seen by readers.

Scarlet tanagers will be around all summer into the fall, usually departing our latitudes by the end of September for their wintering grounds in South America.

A fledgling great horned owl was seen at the Pebblewood Golf Course in Bridgman on May 9. The bird certainly hatched in 2018, likely in late February or March and will be cared for by both parents until November of this year. The young owl still has down feathers, which can be seen in the photo.

Great horned owls are permanent residents and do not migrate. They are found from the tree line in Canada, south through North, Central and South America all the way to Tierra del Fuego.

Lisa Schaller of Bridgman photographed a male worm-eating warbler at Warren Dunes State Park on June 1st. The individual was a male and observed singing at what is believed to be nesting territory. It is likely that the female was on a nest. Some observers have reported seeing two birds at this location during this month.

The worm-eating warbler eats not only worms, but a variety of insects. It is one of about 30 species of wood warbler that either summer in, or migrate



Above: Fledgling great horned owl at Pebble-wood Golf Course, Bridgman, May 9, 2018 by Jackie O'Dell.

Top right (2 photos) Worm-eating warblers at Warren Dunes State Park by Lisa Schaller of Bridgman.

At right: A female veery sits still on her nest in Warren Dunes State Park on June 11, 2018. Brad Anderson of Bridgman.



Left: Sandhill crane family (two adults, 1 young) at Topinabee Lake Preserve, Niles Township by Eric Michael.

through Southwest Michigan. Most warblers eat small invertebrates, such as caterpillars of moths and butterflies, often referred to generically as worms.

The worm-eating warbler likely got its name from the fact it is almost always observed on or just above the forest floor. Wooded dunes and ravines in Warren Dunes and Warren Woods State Parks in Berrien County are among the most reliable places to find this southern species in Michigan.

The species is more common in summer in the southern US, north to central Indiana and Ohio. It winters in Caribbean, Mexico and Central America.

Readers can see in Schallers photo, three of four black stripes on the birds head. The belly and chest are buff color, with olive-green above. Males and females look alike.

Eric Michael of Berrien Springs captured images of two adult sandhill cranes with one fledged young crane of 2018. The nest is located at the Topinabee Lake Preserve owned by the Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy.

The young crane may stay with its parents for up to ten months before venturing out on its own.

Within the last five years, sandhill crane nests have turned up in multiple locations within Berrien County. About ten years ago the only known crane nests were located at Topinabee Lake Preserve, Grand Mere State Park, and Sarett Nature Center's Brown Sanctuary.

Brad Anderson photographed a female veery as it sat inconspicuously on a nest, in Warren Dunes State Park June 11. The veery is a species of thrush, closely related to our wood thrush, and inhabit larger forest tracts in Michigan during the summer months.

The veery regularly nests in Cass County in Newton's Woods, Dowagiac Woods and the Crane Pond State Game Area.



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Local History Branch

Hardships and Incidents of a Pioneer Life in Howard Township, as told by John F. Coulter, who lived most of his life in the area. Provided by Cass District Library's Local History Branch.

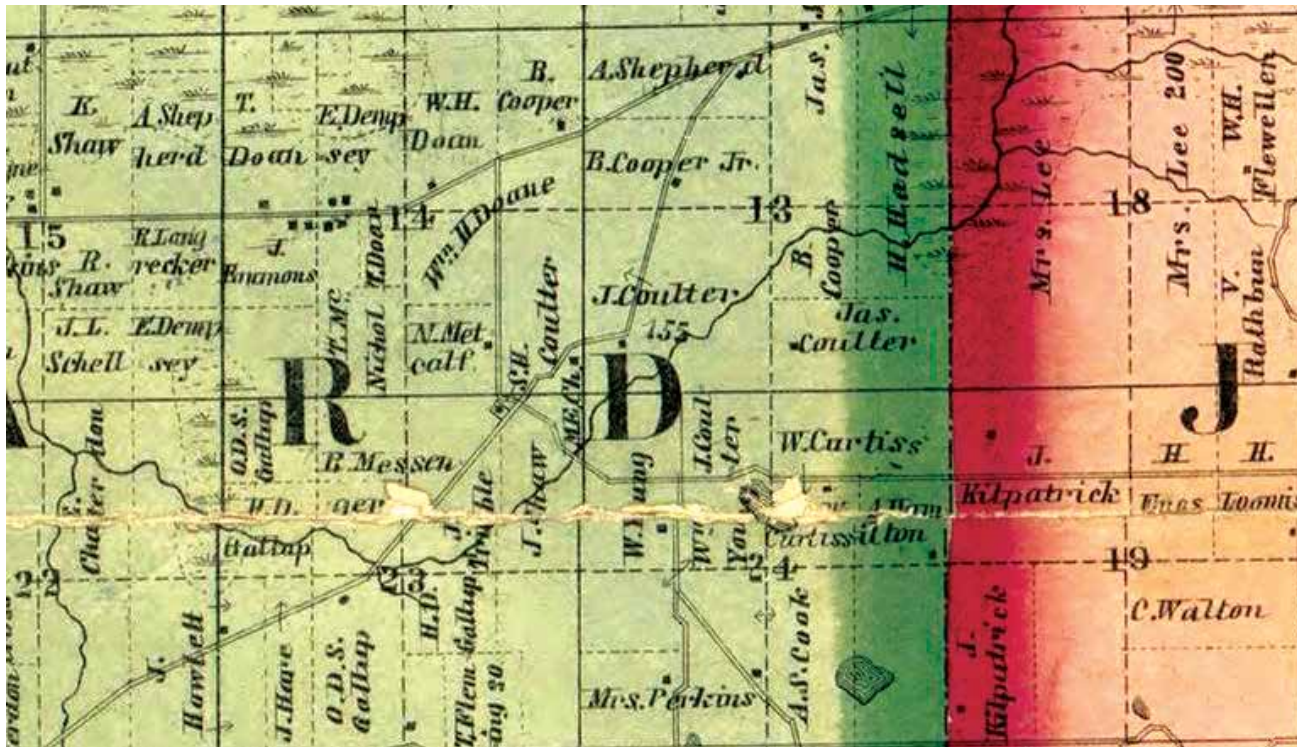
The Coulter home and farm were located on both sides of the intersections of Coulter Street and M-60. During the early 1900s, John F. Coulter reminisced about the early pioneer days in Cass County during the 1830s-1860s, which the Cass District Library has transcribed here.

Continuation of historical reminisces of John Coulter, who lived in Howard Township all his life. We pick up from last month with Coulter's story of black bears around the Coulter's Chapel area:

If ever there were two scared little chaps, we were. We didn't dare to run to the house for the bear was coming in that direction, so we clung close to father and crouched down in the road about where the chapel now stands, and in a few moments bruin came shuffling along the lane from our house and barn, and passed within a few yards of us and took to the woods to the northwest---followed by two hounds pretty close up.

There was quite a little group of men in pursuit--some on horses and others on foot. They had started the bear up near the brick church in Jefferson Township. Father got a horse and went with the rest; but we boys didn't get a great ways from mother the rest of the day.

They followed that bear down near Billy Garwood's close to Sumnerville, before they could make him go up a tree. He was pretty stubborn and would not have climbed then had it not been for a little "phist" dog of a Mr. Rose who was in the company. It would run up and snap its heels, and when old bruin would turn around to



Enlarged area of 1860 plat map showing the James Coulter farm in Howard Township.

Courtesy Library of Congress

swat the little fellow he wasn't there, and as soon as the bear would turn to go the dog would take another snap at him. That proved too much for his bear-ship, and he very soon selected one of the largest trees and went up. Then the firing began, and like some of our battles during the war, a great many shots went wild of the mark, as they didn't care to get too close.

The bear finally got tired of it and started to evacuate, when an adventurous fellow ran up and scared him back to his perch. It gave him a glancing shot on the head he would soon smooth the wound down with his

paw. Finally one marksman got under him and directed a shot that pierced the heart. Even then the old fellow was determined to stay up there as long as he could, clinging by his hind feet until his life was extinct, and then fell with a crash. He was a large one and very fat and had to be divided up between 17 men, the number present at the winding up of the hunt, the an firing the fatal shot getting the hide, which was worth considerable.

To be continued...



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THE LAST WORD

Memories of a favorite roadside attraction

As I remember, it was somewhere around 1959 (my memory hasn't been so good lately). It was a stupid-hot day, and I was stuck in the back seat of a rusty, once-olive-green Studebaker Champion with my older brother. Dad was driving and mom was sitting shotgun, holding my new baby brother on her lap (that was way before seat belts). We were on the way to visit my maternal grandparents at their lake cottage about an hour away from our home, a drive that took us down miles of bad road through corn country, and when the summer was that kind of stupid hot, that hour seemed like eternity to a couple of young brothers who just wanted to sit in the shade and fish off the bank.

Some-where between "Mom, he's touching me again," the ever-popular "I've got to go to the bathroom," and the dreaded "How much longer?" comments, a miracle unfolded right there along highway US 6, just east of Bremen.

"What is that?" my mother asked (no doubt in an effort to keep two bickering brothers confined in a hot back seat from doing serious physical damage to one another) as she pointed out the window in front of us.

Desperate for any diversion from the torture we were inflicting on one another, my brother and I popped up like two Whack-a-Moles waiting for a mallet strike. Peeking over the frayed upholstery at the top of the seatback, my eyes beheld what looked like a line of neat white signs stretching into the distance.

The first sign said, simply, "DON'T."

"What the heck," I wondered as we

sped at the breakneck speed of 45 mph past the first sign.

"TRY PASSING" read the second sign ... keeping our attention just enough to keep us from poking out an eye or sucker-punching a kidney.

The third sign read "ON A SLOPE," setting the hook in my imagination.

It might have been the opening scenes of Flash Gordon or a new Tarzan movie ... we couldn't have been more anxious to get to the next sign if it promised "FREE BIKES" or "SWIMMING HOLE AHEAD." My brother and I were salivating like starved Coyotes at a fresh road kill as we waited for the next sign.

This was better than Christmas Eve. The suspense was killing us.

"UNLESS YOU HAVE"

I had completely forgotten about fishing ... my neck muscles were sore from spinning my head. The old Stude chugged along. The quiet tension in the car was palpable.

"A PERISCOPE"

We burst into laughter as we waited as the next tiny, white (and last) sign rushed at us.

"BURMA SHAVE"

What the heck ... a commercial? At least it was better than the lame, singing ads that interrupted all the radio shows, and a lot better than the even-worse commercials we were forced to endure during Art Linkletter's House Party and on that new TV series, Bonanza, was on right after Walt Disney on Sunday nights.

I don't remember the rest of the drive ... heck, I don't even remember fishing that weekend (I'm sure we did), but to this day I remember the first Burma Shave signs I ever saw.

Over the next few years, the strings of six signs beside the roads were trip highlights. We read them aloud when we passed, roaring with laughter as the verses slowly revealed themselves to us.

Many were blatantly promotional:

OUR FORTUNE

IS YOUR

SHAVEN FACE

IT'S OUR BEST

ADVERTISING SPACE

BURMA SHAVE

IF OUR ROAD SIGNS

CATCH YOUR EYE

SMILE

BUT DON'T FORGET

TO BUY

BURMA SHAVE

A lot of them were both promotional and funny:

HENRY THE EIGHTH

SURE HAD

TROUBLE

SHORT TERM WIVES

LONG TERM STUBBLE

BURMA SHAVE

WHEN A STORK

DELIVERS A BOY

OUR WHOLE

DARN FACTORY

JUMPS FOR JOY

BURMA SHAVE

THE CHICK

HE WED

LET OUT A WHOOP

FELT HIS CHIN

AND FLEW THE COOP

BURMA SHAVE

Often, like the periscope jingle, they

gave sound advice on driving and safety:

DROWSY?

JUST REMEMBER PARD

THAT MARBLE SLAB

IS DOGGONE

HARD

BURMA SHAVE

THIRTY DAYS

HATH SEPTEMBER

APRIL

JUNE AND THE

SPEED OFFENDER

BURMA SHAVE

STATISTICS PROVE

NEAR AND FAR

THAT FOLKS WHO

DRIVE LIKE CRAZY

--ARE

BURMA SHAVE

Burma Shave signs disappeared in the early 1960s when highway laws required that road signs had to be set back so far from the roadway that speeding drivers couldn't read the tiny string of Burma Shave jingles.

Maybe we're better off for it ... the laws have almost certainly eliminated distractions and reduced accidents, especially as highway speeds increased to the breakneck pace of today. But I can't help but think we've also lost something, some part of the American experience; something that was wholesome and fun.

And last week when Fred sent me an email with Burma Shave jingles in it, just for a few minutes I was a seven year old kid bouncing around in the back of an old Stude ... and I was going fishing.

And I smiled ...

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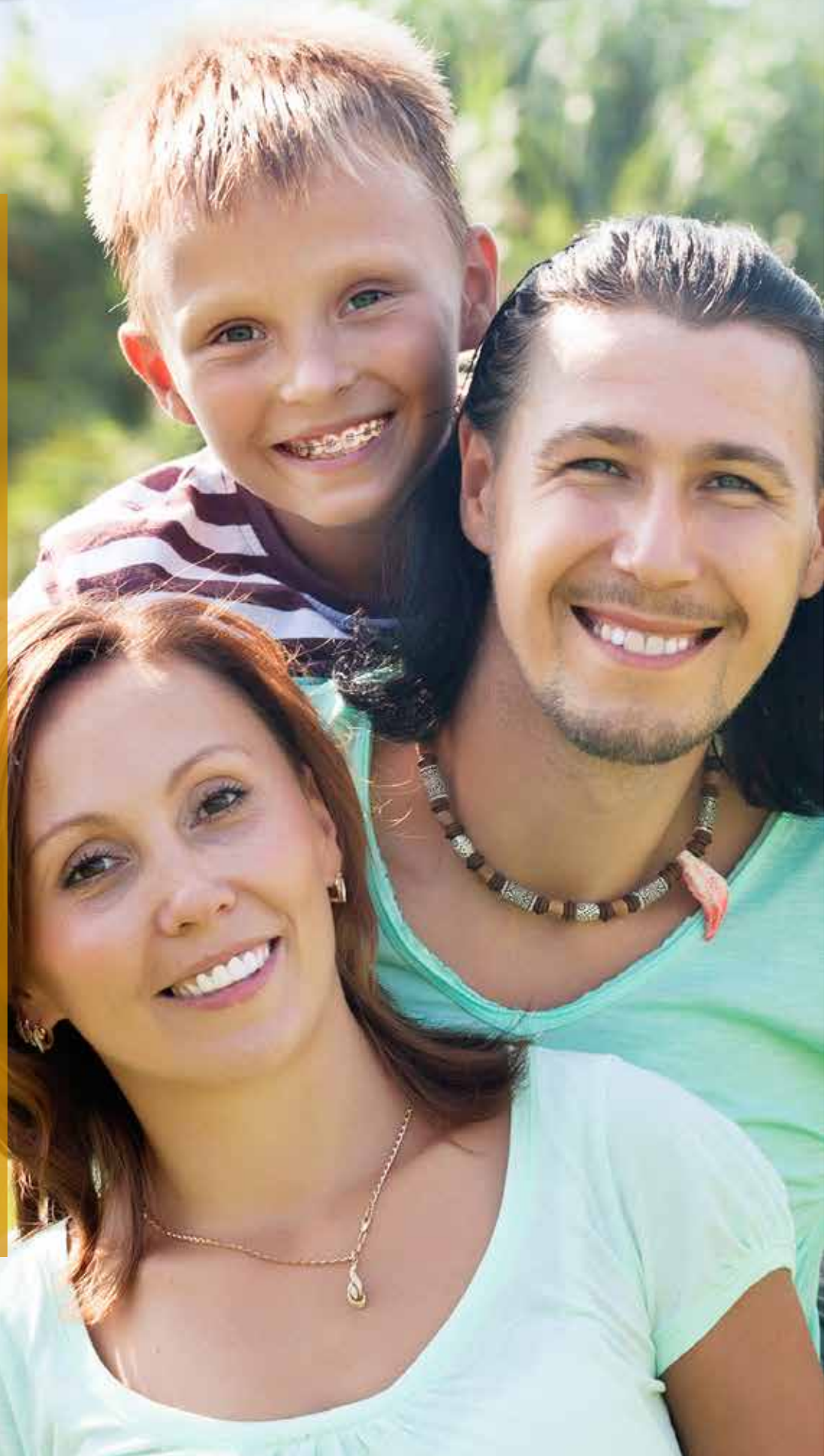
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